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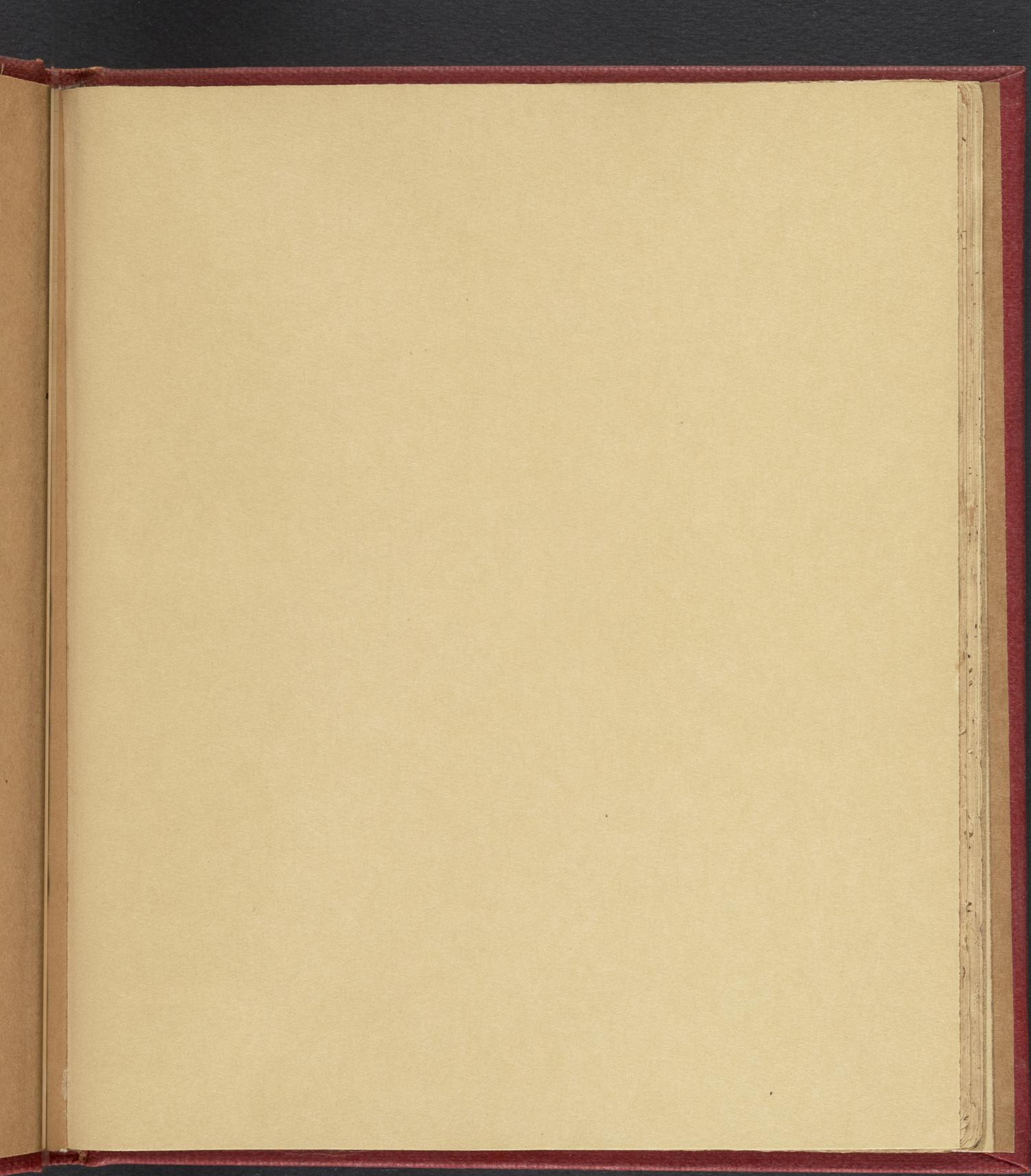
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Valedictory
Oration delivered by
Philip Syng Physick
1785

Found
among some papers
of

Mrs Bowens
relict of W^m Bowens A.Y.

from up New Haven
from the blood of the turtle

Mr Bowens wife Mrs Bowens
Phisick

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1

To you Ladies & Gentlemen, whose minds
are fraught with Liberality, and whose
Bosoms glow with every generous Thought,
to you, Apologies must be disgusting.—

My first Appearance on so publick an
Occasion, added to the Impetuosity of Youth,
will, I make no doubt, sufficiently excuse
me, for this humble Attempt, even in the
Opinion of those, who are disposed to censure
rather than applaud.—

Human Nature

ever pleased with Novelty, and fond of roving
in the Fields of Imagination, is enraptured
with the Sallies of Fancy, and views with
Ecstacy

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Ecstasy, the visionary Scenes of Romance. —
Wild, & extravagant Notions, which draw
the Mind from Reality, and place it
in the Pursuit of golden Dreams and
ideal Happiness, afford unspeakable
Delight, & are perfectly adapted to the Feel-
ings of the Heart — May I be pardoned
for departing from ^{the} agreeable Path and
for selecting a Subject, suited to the well-
cultivated Genius of this Assembly, and to
the mild Spirit of Pennsylvanians —
— Asia is no longer the Residence of
Science, nor longer the Habitation of
Greatness, but is become the Mother of
Despots, and the Nurse of Slaves —

3

"Her cloud-capt Towers, her gorgeous Palaces,
"Her solemn Temples;" all have disappeared;
"And like the baseless Fabric of a Vision,
"Left not a Wreck behind" —

Europe is rapidly advancing to the
same dreadful Situation; while this
Country is opening a Mother's Arms, to
receive the Sons of Virtue, Liberty, and the
Arts. — Justice, Hospitality, and all the
moral, & political Excellencies, are here
exhibited in their native Splendor. We
have been, & still are, great in Virtue's
Cause; we have shewn to the World an
unequalled Degree of Fortitude; we have
taffled the cruel Efforts of Tyranny; and
we

we have taught ⁴ Mankind to believe, that
the Yoke of Slavery, was never intended for
an American - A salubrious Climate, a
rich & fertile Soil, watered throughout
with beautiful meandering Streams, on
which the barks of Luxury have never
appeared, are advantages peculiar to this
Western World - Even the delicate Fair
contribute not a little, to increase our Re-
nown as a Nation - Following the
example of the Daughters of Carthage in
their glorious patriotic exertions; who,
at a Time, when their Country was
invaded by a barbarous Enemy, and
robbed of its internal Strength by the

5

cruel Hand of Treachery, presented their
Rings, Jewels, & Diamonds to the Public;
cut off their Hair to make Ropes for the
Warlike Machines; may they even turned
out, Sword in Hand, & courageously op-
posed the Foes to their Liberty. — Can there
be found in the Annals of Man, a more
celebrated Instance of Patriotism? Answer
me; ye who are daily endeavouring to
depreciate the Merit of the Fair, can you
with all your much talked off Advanta-
ges, boast of a Deed like this —
(to the Ladies)

Happy three happy Hour, when the
Countenances of your most inveterate
Enemies declare, that you bear the Palm
in

in History — ⁶ You Ladies of the present
Day, far excel in every Virtue, the memo-
rable Heroes of Antiquity — Your
Beneficence is not confined to the Walls of
one City, or to the Happiness of one Commu-
nity, but is spread abroad as the salutary
Beams of yonder Luminary to benefit
Mankind universally. — Kindling the
Spark of Philosophy, which has long been
covered by the late glorious Contest; you
reject with Contempt, the trivial Amuse-
ments of the dancing Room, and proy into
the Beauties of Nature — To the Study
of Philosophy, your Researches will not be
confined; the Doors of Science will every

where expand themselves, and when fatigued
with travelling in the tedious Road of In-
vestigation, you may retire to the Temple
of Poetry; or sweetly repose in the downy
lap of Eloquence. The Powers of Persua-
sion you possess in a far greater Degree
than the Male Sex, your Features are
replete with Softness; your Eyes send forth
a vivid, piercing Flame, which would
melt the savage Heart of Barbarity, &
your Expressions are always suited to the
Ideas you would wish to convey. - Observe
me for a moment to look forward, and view
the future Grandeur of this infant Republic;
a Grandeur, for which she is principally
indebted to female Perseverance in the

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Pursuit of Knowledge; a Grandeur which
might justly entitle her to be stiled the
Criterion of Refinement. — The Gentle-
men ever anxious of gaining your Appro-
bation, will apply themselves with unri-
valed Assiduity to the Cultivation of
the Mind, the Man of Letters will be
adored, the Fop & the Scribbler one courted,
will be despised, and the Days of Beauty
will gild the Laurels of the Learned. —

Thus will these States to Knowledge lend their Aid,
To Wisdom's Children, kind Protection yield,
Thus will our Females, with their Smiles, reward
The Noble Efforts of Improvement's Sons.
The Wreaths of Merit shall their Brows adorn,

And never fading Honors deck their Names,
Whose chief Endeavour's, literature, to spread,
To fill the Mind with Wisdom's real Charms,
And render them, the Objects of the World.
Riches ~~is~~ true may please the niggardly,
And sweet Contentment for a Moment give
But to a Being that, for Years, exists,
The only Pleasure, learning can afford.

Long might I dwell upon this pleasing
Theme but the Voice of Duty calls for a Conclusion
Joy Trustee —

Much are we at a Loss, how to express the
grateful Emotions of our Hearts. Young
in Knowledge; young in Years; and con-
sequently young in Experience; we can-
not

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10

cannot make you that warm Return, which
your kind, patronizing, Care demands.—

Our Thanks, our Prayers, nay all that we
possess are yours, and if ⁱⁿ any future Day
we should be called upon to fill a Seat in
Government, or to occupy any Post of
Honor, it will only serve to remind
us of our Obligation to you. — If the
Pleasures which the Mind receives, are ade-
quate to the Services it renders to Mankind,
how immensely great must be those which
you feel, upon seeing the Sons of this Semini-
nary, which is covered by the Shield of your
Protection, shine forth like so many

11
Dorches
Lands to enlighten the human Race -
Long may you experience such generous
Toys; long may this Institution be blessed
with your prudent Direction, and long
may you live in the enjoyment of per-
fect Happiness - These are the Wishes
of yonder Youth, whose sentiments of
Respect, blended with Gratitude, believe
me, are expressed, when I bid you a sin-
gle Farewell -

My Professors

Now, Gentlemen of the Faculty, we
consider ourselves bound by the strongest

12
Yis of Gratitude and affection - Con-
ducted from Infancy to Mankood by your
undiminished Attention; fed by your
indulgent Hands with the healthful
Sprouts of Sound, we cannot but view
you in the sacred Light, of Parents Be-
nefactors and Friends - Your Fellow
Citizens look up to you as a Source of
future Glory; they have intrusted you
with the Blooms of Pennsylvania,
their darling Children; and expect from
your Precepts, they will become useful
Members of Society. - Tho' Pomp
and Grandeur may attract the Veneration

of the gaping Multitude; yet the Man
¹³
who shines in Learning's bright Attire;
who instructs the youthful Mind, who
dispels the Cloud of Ignorance, in which
human Nature is enveloped, far exceed.

in the Estimation of the discerning Philoso-
pher, the Splendid Monarch, with his glit-
tering Train. — But why should we
attempt to enumerate any of the Benefits
which flow from your Instructions —

Mankind are and ever will be convinced,
that Literary Institutions, are productive
of the greatest Advantages. — We in a
particular Manner have experienced
their

their happy Influence; since for our Plea-
sures, our Knowledge, and our Expectations;
we are indebted to you. The Principles
which you have inculcated, must be the
Foundation, on which the Fabric of our
Actions will be built. — Can we make
you a better Return, for these kind De-
merited Favors than an Acknowledege-
ment of our immense Obligation. — We
hope fervently hope, that you may never
stand in need of our Publick Assistance; but
should it so happen in the Order of Prov-
idence; we will readily shew to the world
that the Flame of Gratitude, which

exists in our Bosoms, can never be extinguished — Here let us pause: — your departed Brother, — that much-loved Man, — merits far more than language can express: —

Thy Memory Gamble, doth deserve a Sigh,
The only Tribute that a Friend can pay.
Ye generous, tender, sympathetic Souls;
Ye Sons of Science, who by him, were taught
To drink large Draughts at the Purian Spring,
Draw near & show a Mark of Gratitude,
Draw near & bathe thy on vacant Seat with Tears.
- But ah! can Tears revoke to being, him,
Whose Bosom's wounded by the Shaft of Death,
Tears only can abate ^{the} Excess of Grief,
* A Gamble Professor of Oratory And

16

And soothe a Sorrow that should be unduly'd.
If Heaven had granted to my humble Tongue,
A Pow'r to express the Feelings of my Heart,
Such Feelings as the Death of those produce,
To whom I'm bound by all th' endearing Ties
Of Intimacy, Gratitude, & Love;
Then might tell you what I have in duct
What Clouds of Iniquity bursted on my Head.
To us alone, the Loss is not confined;
The Literary Mansion feels the Stroke;
The Twig of Eloquence must droop & die—
Not Tully's Language, nor a Milton's Fire,
Not Pope's soft Numbers, nor a Bradford's Tongue,
Nor even fair Sublimity herself
Could do full Justice to the Name of Gamble.

Our dear Instructor, Words cannot convey,
 what we at present feel - The Moment
 of our Separation is not far distant; it rapidly
 approaches and accelerates the sad, the
 solemn Farewell —

See Junior Clas
 Young Gentlemen —

Might not the world
 justly impeach us of a Violation of the sacred
 Laws of Friendship; were we ^{to leave} this
 Nursery of Genius without bidding Adieu
 to our intended Imeipors — Be not allured
 from the Path of Study by the deceitful
 Dues

18

Views of the Ages, but remember you are
sowing the Seeds of those Characters, who
will distinguish you on the grand Stage
of Life. — The craggy barren Parts of a
classical Education, you have already
passed, and are about entering into a de-
lightful Garden, covered with Ten Thousand
Beauties — One Step more, and you will
reach the Summit of academical Per-
fection; then the Opportunity, the
golden Opportunity will be gone forever.

Embrace it, my Friends, it will not
only afford you immediate Pleasure,
but in the cool reflecting Hours of Manhood,

you will reap an ample Crop of Satisfaction.

- Many are daily looking back with Regret at their not having accepted of that inestimable Jewel that was offered them by the Guardians of their Youth - Our Hearts are filled with Benevolence to you, and that "Peace Health & Competence may ever accompany you, is the most fervent Wish of those who are compelled to bid you Farewell

To the Graduates

The farther I proceed, the more Difficulties I have to encounter - The thought of past Pleasure, and the Prospect of a different Scene

Scene conspire to congeal those Stream
of Joy, which spring from Nature in
the human Mind. 'Tis hard that
we Fellow-Citizens, Companions, and
Friends; whose Souls are melted into
one, whose spring of Action is the
Good of all, who have travelled toge
ther through this Edifice of Science;
should be torn from each other, from
every Thing that is sacred and precious,
should be wrested by the iron Hand of
Despoticity, from the Arms of our Alma
Mater, and from the Council of our
experienced Instructors. Resolution

renders all thy aid; it is too much for
weak Humanity to undergo. — The
Sun, that Beauty of the Day, before he
reach the Western track of Heaven,
shall behold us separated; separated per-
haps forever. — One may wander through
the Plains of America; One may rest
contentedly at his native Home, while
another is wafted on the Billows of the
Ocean, in quest of Europe's much-frequen-
ted Shores. — The Pangs of Sorrow, which
this cruel Parting Moment raised in
my Breast, forced me to lament the
Time, we met together in the Dome
of Knowledge. — Had I been born

under some humble Peasant's Roof, or
doomed to cultivate the Fields of ~~Nature~~
I then had been, a happy Stranger to this
melancholy Hour. - But what can this
effect - Our Separation is decreed - Let
us then endeavor to remove its melting
Horrors, by plunging into the Waters of Re-
signation. - Farewell then my dearest
Friends farewell - The Scene is ended
But Oh! Suffer me before we part,
before we take our final Leave, to shew
another Token of my Friendship -
Give me your Hand - May the
Clouds of Misfortune be driven far

23

distant from your friendly Dwellings,
may the Planets of Contentment always
enlighten your Paths; and may the Sun of
Happiness, in his Meridian Lustre,
forever gild you with his heavenly Rays.

- Alas! - methinks I see the Curtain falling
to divide us - A sigh thouft for the the
bitter Farewell -

O ^{the} joy Audience
Ladies & Gentlemen. -

We are sensible that a
Debt of Gratitude, still remains undischar-
ged - The Candor & Indulgence with
which

24.

which you have heard the Exercises of
the Day will be a Monument on which
shall be represented Patriotism and
Generosity rewarding with smiling
approbation, the weak Attempts of
Youth to merit Virtue's Praise They
who after us shall tread this Stage, will
be raised on the Pinion of Expectation
while the candid Stranger must applaud
the Actions which have distinguished you
upon this and similar Occasions

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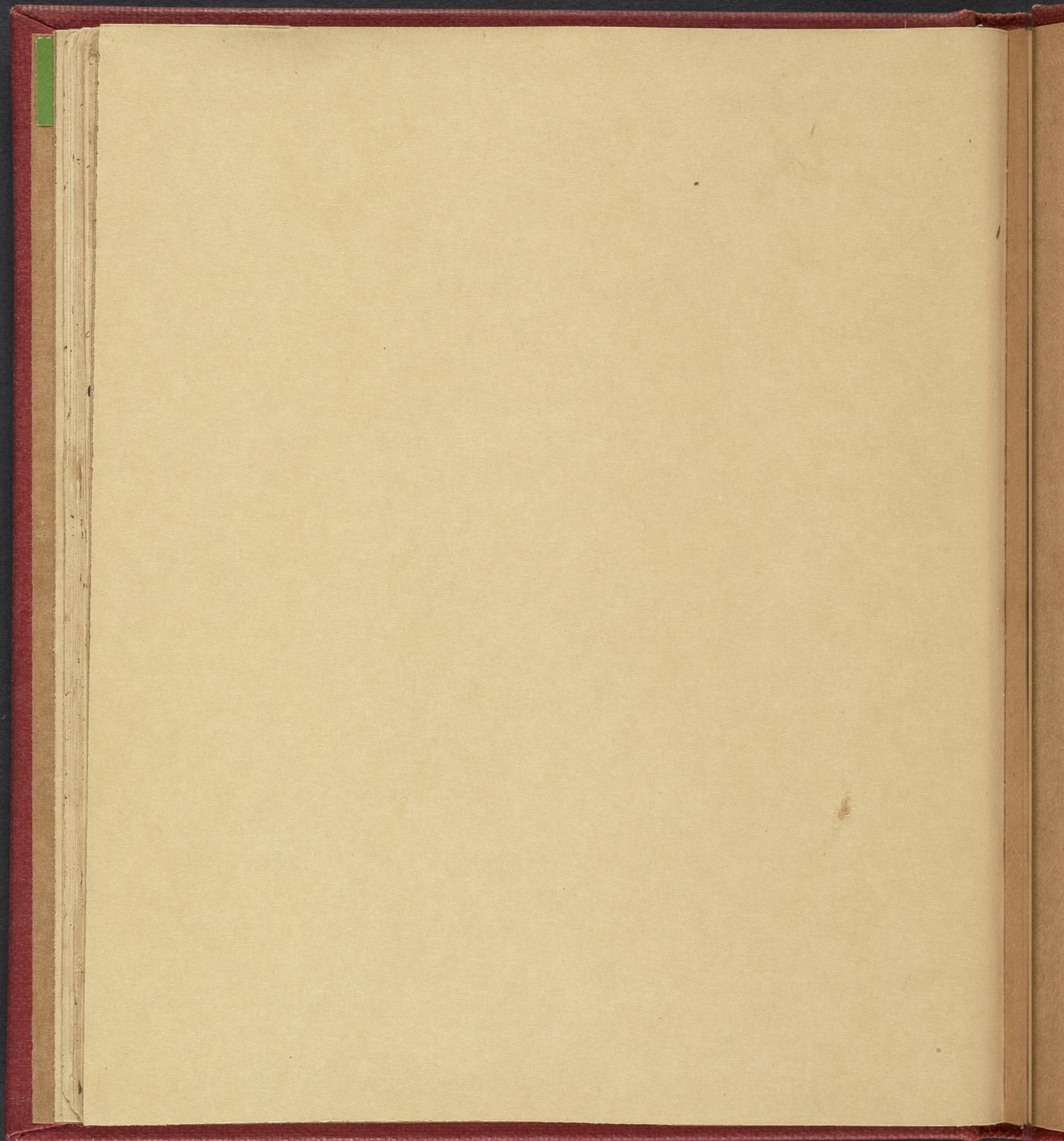
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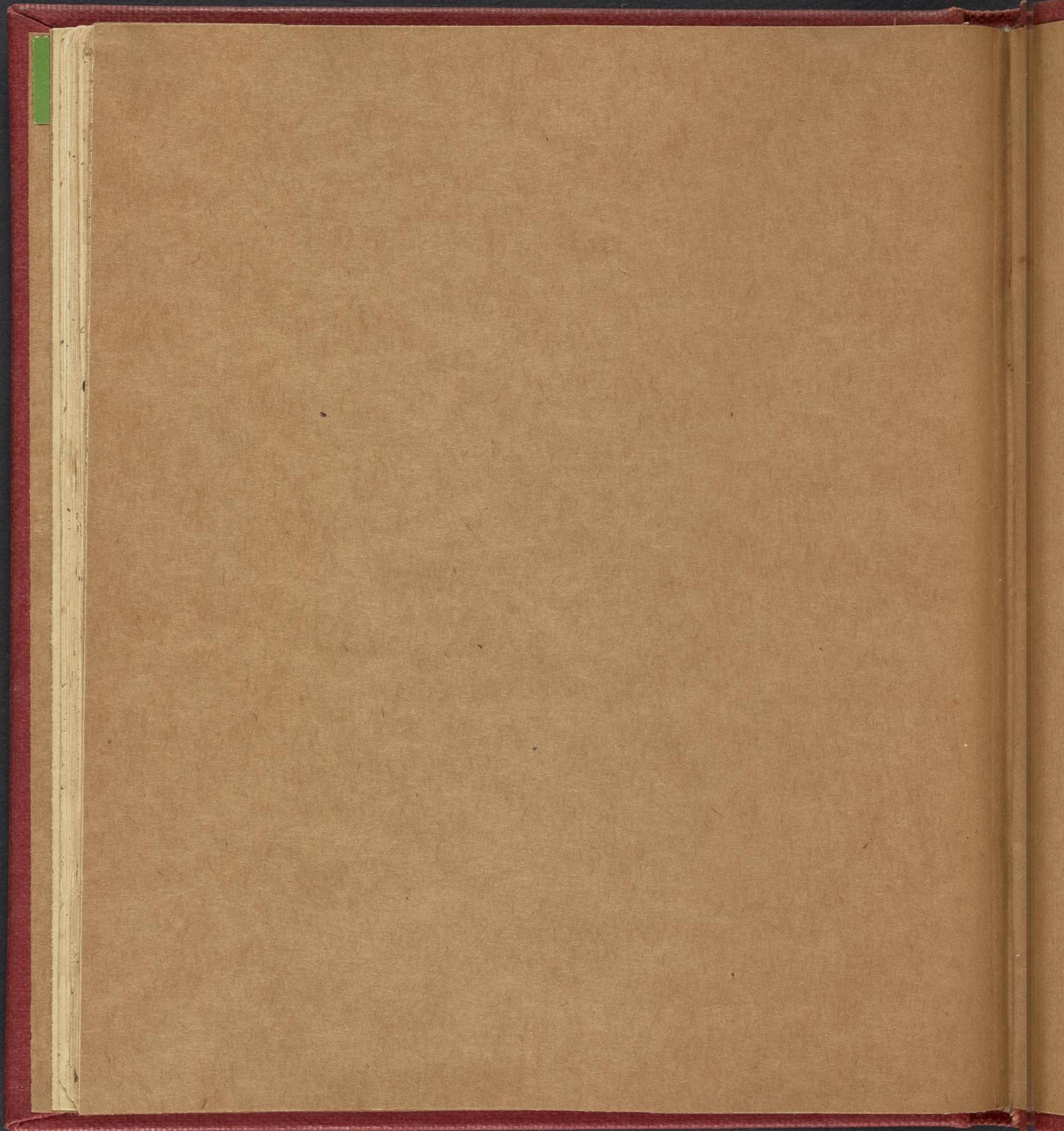
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WALLEDICTOR'S ORATION
PHILIP SWINGEYNSICK





